

MAY 30 2019

FCC Mailroom

May 20, 2019

325

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

As you know, across the United States access to mobile 4G LTE services continues to remain a stubborn challenge that has led to many gaps in cellular service coverage. These gaps are worst in our rural communities. The lack of cell coverage has become more than a quality of life issue. Cellular service is now critical to public safety and economic development. To retain and attract people to move to these communities, and to ensure businesses thrive, access to reliable cellular coverage is a necessity.

The FCC, through the Mobile Fund Phase II (MFII) project, has been collecting mobile 4G LTE coverage data that has been used to create a map identifying areas that lack cellular coverage that was released on February 27, 2018. These maps have shown that data previously supplied to the FCC has overstated actual service coverage.

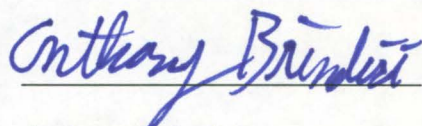
In 2018, several members of the U.S. Senate wrote to you to describe issues with the MFII map and concerns of misrepresentation. MFII is intended to provide \$4.53 billion in support over 10 years to preserve and expand mobile coverage throughout rural portions of the United States. However, the current data and map does not adequately represent the areas of our country that need this funding.

Many financing options exist to support the expansion of broadband services to communities; however these programs do not address gaps in cell service. Some examples of these programs include:

- Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Community Connect Broadband Grants Program
- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants Program
- Connect America Fund/Universal Service High Cost Program, FCC
- US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Economic Development Facilities and Public Works
- Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grants, US Department of Housing and Urban Development

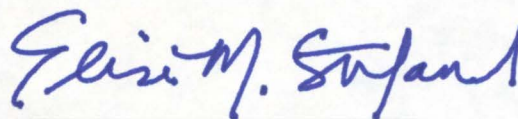
We urge the FCC to expand the MFII grant program to include explicit funding for rural cellular deployment; expedite the process to distribute these grant funds; and clearly and accurately identify areas within the United States that require this investment.

Sincerely,



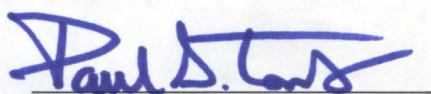
Anthony Brindisi

Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik

Member of Congress



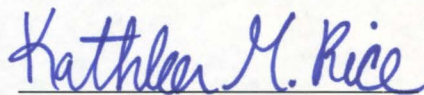
Paul Tonko

Member of Congress



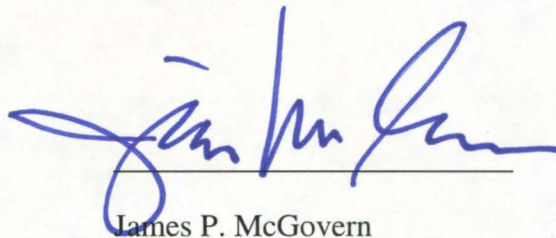
Antonio Delgado

Member of Congress




Kathleen Rice

Member of Congress



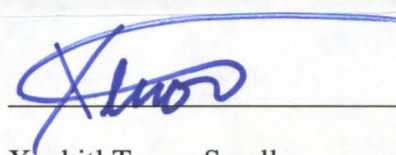
James P. McGovern

Member of Congress



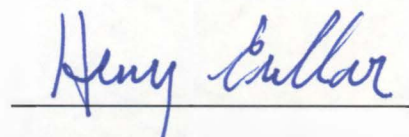
Jeff Van Drew

Member of Congress



Xochitl Torres Small

Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar

Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez

Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Brindisi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
329 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Brindisi:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping and 4G LTE in rural areas. Closing the digital divide is my top priority, and wireless coverage is an important aspect of this priority. I have seen for myself across the country what wireless access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

I agree with you with respect to the importance of ensuring that FCC-administered funding is directed to American communities most in need of wireless services—particularly rural areas. That is why the FCC under my leadership structured the Mobility Fund Phase II (MF-II) to redirect funding from parts of the country that already had service to areas without any coverage at all. Indeed, the very goal of this \$4.5 billion program is to ensure that we target first and foremost rural areas that for too long have gone without adequate wireless services.

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I appreciate your continued interest in working with the FCC to close the wireless digital divide and look forward to continuing to collaborate on this issue. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Elise Stefanik  
U.S. House of Representatives  
318 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Antonio Delgado  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Delgado:

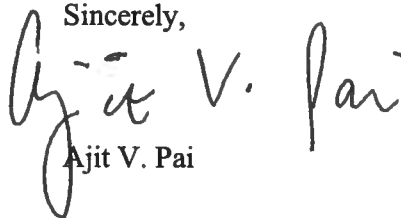
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2463 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Kathleen Rice  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1508 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Rice:

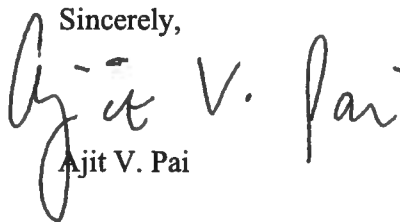
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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August 21, 2019

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
408 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

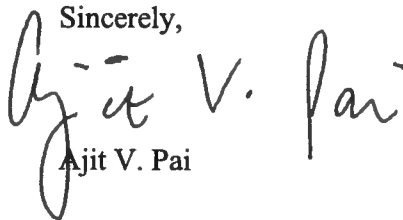
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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August 21, 2019

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew  
U.S. House of Representatives  
331 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Van Drew:

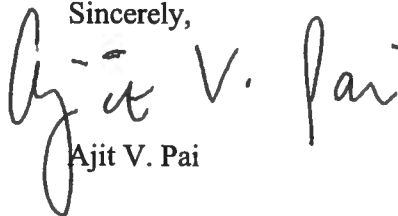
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Xochitl Torres Small  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2444 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Torres Small:

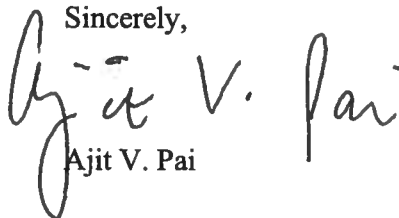
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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August 21, 2019

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2209 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cuellar:

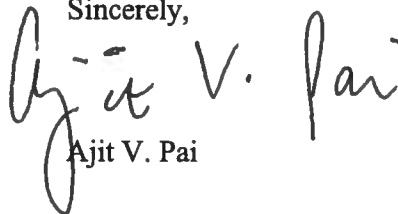
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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August 21, 2019

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
113 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

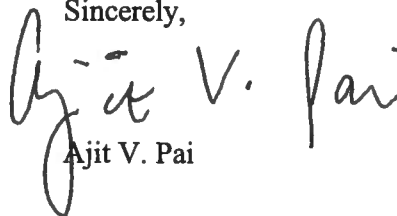
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